*Drashti Kalariya*

*Oxycodone*

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* Oxycodone is in a group of drugs called narcotic pain relievers.
* Oxycodone is a semi-synthetic opiate manufactured by modifying the chemical thebaine, an organic chemical found in opium.
* The drug is marketed under names including OxyContin, Percocet, Percodan and Tylox.
* Oxycodone may be habit-forming and should be used only by the person it was prescribed for.
* Oxycodone should never be shared with another person, especially someone who has a history of drug abuse or addiction.
* Since oxycodone products should only be used based on a doctor's prescription, signs of addiction can be monitored and controlled more effectively than if the user is not under a physician's care.
* When used illicitly, the chances of becoming addicted to it increase exponentially.
* Oxycodone, for example, has many similarities to other drugs of abuse including alcohol, heroin, and marijuana, in that they elevate levels of dopamine, the neurotransmitter linked with pleasure experiences.
* As a result, prolonged use and abuse of oxycodone medications eventually change the brain in such a way that a user cannot quit on his or her own, a typical sign of addiction.
* Do not take oxycodone with alcohol, other narcotic pain medications, sedatives, tranquilizers, muscle relaxers, or other medicines that can make you sleepy or slow your breathing.

## Signs of Oxycodone Abuse

* + Altering the dose of opiate drugs in any way can have unintended and possibly fatal consequences.
  + This could include crushing or chewing the pills for snorting or injection.
  + Such rapid release of oxycodone can cause serious health issues, even death.
* There are more serious complications and negative effects from using products containing oxycodone, particularly when abused.
  + Side effects of oxycodone products include:
    - Breathing irregularity or respiratory depression
    - Increased pressure of cerebral and spinal fluid
    - Headaches
    - Nausea
    - Dizziness
    - Seizures
    - Heart failure
    - Low blood pressure
    - Loss of consciousness
    - Difficulty swallowing
    - Overdose death due to cardiac arrest or slowed breathing (especially when ingesting crushed Oxycontin tablets)
* **Methods of Use**
  + Oxycodone products can be administered intramuscularly (injection directly into the muscle), intravenously (injection into the blood stream), subcutaneously (injection under the skin) rectally, and/or orally through pills and tablets.

<http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/drugs/oxycodone.asp>

<http://www.drugs.com/oxycodone.html>